

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th October 1880.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi" ... ..	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvārtā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhinī" ... ..	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	30th September 1880.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	27th Sept. & 4th October 1880.
7	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
8	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	671	28th September 1880.
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān	296	28th Sept. & 5th October 1880.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	3rd October 1880.
12	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	1st ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishinī" ... ..	Dacca	300	
14	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye	200	29th September 1880.
15	"Howrah Hitakarī" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah	400	
16	"Medinī" ... ..	Midnapore	250	
17	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	
18	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	1st October 1880.
19	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	4th ditto.
20	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	275	
21	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	
22	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	3rd ditto.
23	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	27th Sept. & 4th October 1880.
24	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	350	
25	"Som Prakāsh" ... ..	Changripotā, 24-Perghs.	.....	4th October 1880.
26	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	2nd ditto.
27	"Shārad Kaumudī" ... ..	Bhowanipore	300	
28	"Srihatta Prakāsh" ... ..	Sylhet	440	27th September 1880.
29	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha" ... ..	Commillah	.....	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
30	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
31	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	700	30th Sept. to 5th October 1880.
32	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	2nd to 7th October 1880.
33	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	4th to 6th ditto.
34	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	5th October 1880.
35	"Prabhātī" ... ..	Ditto	.....	2nd to 7th October 1880.
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Ditto	365	2nd October 1880.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	500	30th September 1880.
38	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	30th ditto.
39	"Jagat Mitra" ... ..	Ditto	157	
40	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	200	4th October 1880.
41	"Uchit Baktā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	2nd ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	1st ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār" ... ..	Ditto	.....	3rd ditto.



## POLITICAL.

SOM PRAKASH,  
October 4th, 1880.

The *Som Prakash*, of the 4th October, strongly condemns the policy of Sir Bartle Frere in disarming the Basujos, which has led them into open rebellion. The

policy has no moral justification, and is at best a cowardly one. The British Government may find it necessary, in the interests of peace, to disarm a subject people, while they themselves are well equipped with arms, but if those who are thus deprived of a privilege which is dear to their hearts, and which they have never abused, rise in rebellion as a consequence of this treatment, they cannot justly merit any punishment at all. In fact the peace which is purchased by the disarmament of a subject people is as worthless as the chastity of the numerous females who are confined in the harem of a Mahomedan Nawab.

SOM PRAKASH.

2. The same paper contains an article on the foreign policy of the Liberals. The charge that the foreign policy

The foreign policy of the Liberals.

of the Liberal party is weak must have originated with the Continental nations, who think it a matter of pride to be constantly prepared for war. It is no wonder that the equitable policy of the Liberals, who value peace more than war, should have been looked upon by them as an outcome of weakness. The Liberal statesmen, however, are worthy of all praise for regulating their actions by the requirements of morality. The reply of the Marquis of Hartington to the deputation which recently waited upon him, praying for the annexation of Candahar, clearly establishes this point. As an honest man, the Secretary of State has asked the deputation "What right have we to Candahar?" [See the Article headed "What right have we to Candahar?" in the *Friend of India* of the 6th October 1880.]

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SAHACHAR,  
September 27th, 1880.

3. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th September, refers to the observations recently made by the Lieutenant-Governor on the small number of convictions obtained in

Acquittals in sessions cases.

the sessions cases. The Editor can testify from his own knowledge to the fact that at the sessions the number of false cases is gradually decreasing. The police, indeed, may now and then be found sending up a witness to give false evidence, but even the police is now obliged to act with caution. The evil lies elsewhere. Regarding the punishment of an offender, the people of this country manifest a perfect indifference, nay they offer a passive resistance to the efforts of the police to bring the offender to justice. Another reason why prosecutions so often break down at the sessions is that the committing Magistrates, in their hurry to get through the enormous amount of work which has been imposed upon them, do not always find time to make local investigations in person or to carefully examine the defendants on all important points. This circumstance enables the latter to materially alter their depositions at the sessions. Certain instances of this nature are given. The article will be resumed in a future issue.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
September 27th, 1880.

4. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 27th September, contains a report of Mr. Baldwin's case from the pen of one of its own correspondents. The argu-

Baldwin's case.

ments adduced by the Government Prosecutor for obtaining a conviction, as also those employed by the counsel for the defendant, are given at some length. The latter advocate is constantly made to remind the jury that, in spite of any evidence to the contrary, they should not bring in a verdict of guilty, as this would be a most unusual course for a European jury to follow when one of their own fellow-countrymen was being tried. The accused, the jury are reminded, is a European and a Christian gentleman, who regularly attends the church, and has at least ten copies of the Holy



Bible among the books in his library, and thus it was plainly impossible for him to have committed the crime with which he was charged. The advocate takes care to impress upon the gentlemen of the jury the responsibility they would incur by returning a verdict unfavourable to his client. Such a course would be suicidal to their own interests, and would result in placing Europeans on the same footing with the natives of the country. This appeal had the desired effect, and after a few minutes' consultation the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty."

5. Adverting to the subscriptions that are being raised for the relief of the soldiers wounded and the families of those killed in the Afghan war, the same paper remarks that it is not desirable that

Subscriptions in aid of the soldiers wounded in the Afghan war.

Government should have any connection with this matter. For the least connection with Government is enough to make contributions, which would otherwise be purely voluntary, appear as a tax. The authorities may protest and explain, but the natives will nevertheless view the matter in this light.

6. The *Burdwán Sanjivani*, of the 28th September, thus enumerates what it conceives to be the causes of the unpopularity of the courts of justice under the British Government:—(1) The multiplicity and the increasing number of laws; (2) the costs of litigation; and (3) the delay in the administration of justice.

The administration of justice.

7. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 28th September, contains an article on the contributions which the zemindars and other well-to-do men are now more frequently than ever called upon to make, and which they cannot withhold for fear of offending the authorities. Strong incentive to this sort of charity is found in the reflection that honours and titles of distinction can only be obtained by this means. So that wealthy landlords have now learnt to regulate their charity, not by the claims of those who would seek its benefit, but by the probable effect of their liberality upon Magistrates and Commissioners and Editors of newspapers. This is, however, greatly to be deplored. Titles of distinction are being lowered in value, and even the generous instincts of the heart are vitiated by this means. Many a landlord is so frequently pestered with applications for help, and finds himself in consequence so greatly embarrassed, that he would much rather have his title taken away than be put to so much trouble. The Editor then refers to the subscriptions that are being now raised in aid of the wounded soldiers in Afghanistan. On this subject his remarks are similar to those noticed in paragraph 5.

Voluntary subscriptions and official pressure.

8. The *Behār Bandhu* continues its observations on the draft Rent Bill. Section 22 treats of the grounds on which the rent of an occupancy ryot may be enhanced, but these grounds are stated in such a careful and guarded manner, and there have been so many limitations imposed, that in practice enhancement will be altogether rendered impossible. Section 25 treats of the grounds of abatement of rent. Here, however, the same limitations are not imposed. All this requires careful consideration. Section 23 (a)—It should be considered whether the provision here made will be applicable to all districts. When enhancement is granted on the ground mentioned as (3) in section 22, will the table of rates be fixed according to the provisions of section 102?

The draft Rent Bill.

9. The following observations are extracted from an article in the *Sādhāranī*, of the 3rd October:—The municipalities, it would seem, were created to make the burden of misery, which is a Bengali's portion in life, intolerable to him. The

Village municipalities.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
September 27th, 1880.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
September 28th, 1880.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
September 28th, 1880.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
September 30th, 1880.

SADHARANĪ,  
October 3rd, 1880.



actions of the municipalities in the mofussil are such as to produce at once a feeling of indignation and disappointment. The members are selected, it would seem, according to the dimensions of their bellies; the possession of brains is not taken into account. Ram has a larger belly than Shyam, and so Ram has better claims to be made a Commissioner than Shyam. Raghunath, again, has the largest belly of all, so he has a preferential claim to the membership. The man who is the largest-bellied among this parcel of large-bellied and brainless persons is generally appointed Vice-Chairman. Their only duty would seem to be to humour the Chairman, who is almost always a European. The members attend meetings and second what the Chairman says, and then fancy their work is done. They are never found to open their lips in defence of the interests of the rate-payers. The object of the introduction of the municipal system is to teach self-government to the people of this country. It is undeniable that in the villages this object is in a large measure attained, and practical lessons in self-government given to the inhabitants. They learn to give up independent views, to sacrifice conscience at the altar of self-interest, to ignore their own existence, and to subordinate every wish and feeling to the dominant will of the European official. It is because able and conscientious men are so rarely elected as Municipal Commissioners that municipalities have become an object of contempt.

SADHARANI,  
October 8th, 1880.

10. A correspondent of the same paper refers to the hardship which the tenantry in the khas mehals of the Midnapore district have been put to by the undue enhancement of their rents at the recent settlement. Many of them have resorted to the law courts, but find themselves unable to pay for counsel. They had anxiously looked forward to the approaching visit of the Commissioner, but he, it would seem, has given up the idea of visiting this part of the country. The floods have destroyed the crops in Hijli. The condition of the roads in the Contai sub-division is extremely wretched, notwithstanding that the inhabitants have regularly paid the road cess and the other taxes. Medical aid is not procurable here at a cheap rate.

SADHARANI.

11. The following items of local news are extracted from the same paper:—A record belonging to the *sherista* of the Judge of Hooghly was lost, but has been recovered. There has, however, been another irregularity. A prisoner, who had appealed in a criminal case to the Judge's court, had his sentence reduced to one of six months' imprisonment. He was, however, detained in prison for more than seven months, but even then not being released, he made a petition to the Magistrate of the district, who forwarded it to the Judge. It has since transpired that a copy of the judgment of the Appellate Court had not been forwarded to the Magistrate at all. The Judge has therefore ordered that a copy should be sent without further delay, and has expressed his determination to punish the mohurir through whose fault the mistake had occurred. But who will grant compensation to the prisoner for the additional month's imprisonment he has suffered? A large number of criminal appeals has accumulated on the file of the Judge. Many of the appellants are in prison, not a few having a reasonable prospect of acquittal. There is, however, no knowing when their appeals will be heard: in the meantime they must remain in the jail. Instances, again, have not been rare in this court of appellants who have come out of the jails although their appeal has not been decided. No wonder that such a lamentable and withal ridiculous procedure should have brought the courts of justice into contempt, the more so as justice is sold under the British Government. An additional

The Judge's court, Hooghly.



Judge should be promptly deputed to Hooghly to clear off the arrears. The mukhtars and suitors have no room or accommodation within the Hooghly court premises where they can sit and rest. This should be attended to.

12. A correspondent of the same paper deprecates the proposal to abolish the Fulbari munsif in the Dinagepore district. There are many suits instituted in this court, and Government also derives a good income from it. The proposal, if carried out, will cause considerable hardship and inconvenience to poor suitors, who may have to resort to the more distant munsif courts to which the villages comprised in its jurisdiction are proposed to be transferred.

SADHARANI,  
October 3rd, 1880.

13. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 4th October, protests against the arguments employed in a recent memorial to Government of the inhabitants of the Bhagawangola thana, praying for the transfer of that thana from the local jurisdiction of the Azimgunge munsif. The existing arrangement is convenient enough for all parties, except for the inhabitants of the westernmost villages of the thana, who have to come a rather long distance in reaching the munsif at Azimgunge. But even as regards their convenience, it may be asked whether the distance in question is not a matter for congratulation, because the greater the distance from a law court, rarer does litigation become. Azimgunge, moreover, occupies nearly a central position with respect to the whole area comprised within its munsif jurisdiction. Any alteration therefore of the local jurisdictions of the munsifs in the Moorsshedabad district is likely to lead to considerable inconvenience as regards the majority of the suitors.

SOM PRAKASH,  
October 4th, 1880.

14. The same paper directs the attention of Sir Ashley Eden's Government to the necessity of making an enquiry into the truth of the allegations contained in a recent memorial to Government of the inhabitants of Deoghur against Mr. Wilmott, the Assistant Commissioner. It is to be regretted that the authorities have not yet taken the petition into consideration.

SOM PRAKASH.

15. The same paper refers to the petition which has recently been made to Government by certain respectable Mahomedans for the establishment of a separate college for the higher education of Mahomedan lads. The Editor does not see how the prayer could be a reasonable one. Mahomedan lads are not denied admission into the Calcutta Presidency College. If they do not choose to avail themselves of the privilege, they must suffer for their own mistaken notions. Certainly Government cannot from the public funds sanction an expenditure for the benefit of a particular class. Even if established, how, again, would the continuance of a separate Mahomedan College be possible? Whence is a sufficient number of students to come? The number of Mahomedan lads who successfully pass the Entrance Examination every year is not large, and Government must incur a heavy expenditure if a college were to be established for the benefit of these few students. The same objection may be justly raised against the proposal made by Archdeacon Baly for the exclusive benefit of Eurasian pupils.

SOM PRAKASH.

16. Referring to the resolution of Government on the last Administration Report of the Bengal Police, the same paper fully concurs in the observations made by the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the working of the rural punchayets.

SOM PRAKASH.

Last Administration Report of  
the Bengal Police.



SAR SUDHANIDHI,  
October 4th, 1880.

17. The *Sar Sudhánidhi*, of the 4th October, refers to the inequitable

The license-tax in Calcutta.

assessments with the license-tax that are being made by the Collector of Calcutta. Appeals

do not tend to any good. Government is asked to inquire into the complaints of the sufferers.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
October 4th, 1880.

18. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 4th October, writes a long article on

The public debt of the Government of India.

the public debt of the Government of India.

It is observed that the amount of debt incurred since the Government of the country passed into the hands of the Queen has been very large. Now what should be done towards the extinction of this debt? Increase of revenue it is impossible to obtain; the farthest limit of taxation has been reached in India. The other course, namely, a reduction of expenditure, is equally difficult, owing to the injury to vested interests which is apprehended. The Editor, therefore, points out that there is still a third course open. It is not mentioned for the first time, having been once before pointed out by Lord Derby in Parliament. It consists in the guaranteeing of the Indian debt by England. If the Government of India could borrow in England on the strength of such a guarantee, it might obtain loans on such low rates of interest that there would be considerable savings in a few years.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

19. The same paper refers to the scale of counsel's fees recently

Scale of Counsel's fees.

sanctioned by the High Court, and remarks

that there does not appear to be any necessity

for altering the present rule which regulates the remuneration of counsel. It does not press heavily upon either the suitors or their advocates. The new scale, on the contrary, is likely to produce more harm than good. There would be nothing to prevent counsel from demanding more from clients than what they could get according to the sanctioned scale when a suitor had to choose between the alternatives of engaging an inferior advocate or the services of an able one by the payment of a higher fee. The only effect of the introduction of the scale will therefore be that the party which wins will not be able to recover from the other the costs which it has really incurred, but so much only as is in accordance with the court's scale. It is the suitors therefore that will be the losers. If it were argued that the pleaders would be obliged to abide by the new scale, the reply is that in that case, owing to the smallness of the remuneration granted them, properly qualified men would not be inclined to enter the legal profession, and thus, in the long run, it is the parties, again, who will suffer. The distinction made in the scale between the fees of pleaders practising in the High Court and those practising in any district court does not appear to be reasonable. In regular suits before the district courts, the latter have to do a large amount of work, which has of late been augmented by the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Code. It is to be regretted that, instead of increasing, the court has rather reduced their fees. As to the motive which has led the High Court to take up this matter, different persons are of course expressing different views. While some say that the new scale has been devised in the interests of the barristers, others again maintain that sympathy for the poor suitors led the Judges to frame it. If the latter view is correct, it behoves Government, while it is reducing the rate of remuneration to be allowed to counsel, to reduce the court fees also. This would be an act of true philanthropy.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

20. The same paper enumerates the taxes, imperial and provincial,

Taxation in Bengal.

altogether 22 in number, which the people in Bengal are required to pay. They are the

most heavily taxed people in the world. It would, however, be some consolation to them if the proceeds of the taxes were spent for their benefit.



This is not the case. There is the chowkidari-tax regularly levied from them, but robberies continue to take place as frequently, and the police remains as inefficient as ever. Similarly with the road cess. The villagers obtain no benefit from this tax. Not to speak of the construction of new roads, in many places the existing roads are not kept in proper repair. In Mayadá, within 20 miles of Calcutta, there is not a single metalled road to be found; and the sufferings of the inhabitants on this account are extreme. The same may be said of many other taxes. Why does not Government, it may be asked, follow the good old policy of the East India Company, and act in accordance with the requirements of this country?

21. The *Bardwán Sanjivani*, of the 5th October, regards the expenditure incurred by Government for the purpose of promoting primary education as so much

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
October 5th, 1880.

Primary education in Burdwan. waste of public money. The pupils learn next to nothing in the pathshalas, and the inhabitants look upon these institutions with perfect indifference. The system of payment-by-results is a failure. The gurus, as well as the Sub-Inspectors, find it to their advantage to report an increasing number of pathshalas every year, no matter whether most of these exist for a short time or permanently. The aid given is not sufficient to induce the gurus, a poor class, to keep up a permanent pathshala, and so, as often as the Sub-Inspector visits a village, one is improvised for the occasion.

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*The 9th October 1880.*



